

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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DRAFTED BY EB/FTD:MBSMITH:HM

APPROVED BY EB/FTD:MBSMITH

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: USG/GOP BILATERAL TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 273325

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. DUE TO A SCHEDULE CONFLICT WHICH HAS ARISEN SINCE DISPATCH OF REFTTEL, IT NOW IMPOSSIBLE FOR USG TO BEGIN TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP ON JANUARY 27 IN MANILA AS USG PROPOSED (TO DATE, WE HAVE HAD NO GOP RESPONSE RE JANUARY 27). IN VIEW OF THIS, WE WOULD NOW LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT, IF POSSIBLE, THESE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN IN WASHINGTON ON JANUARY 13. WE REALIZE THIS IS VERY SHORT NOTICE AND REGRET THAT COMPLEX SCHEDULING COMMITMENTS

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COMPEL US TO REQUEST THIS CHANGE. OVER PAST WEEK, WE TRIED

TO PREVENT RESCHEDULING USG/GOP NEGOTIATIONS BUT WITH NO SUCCESS. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE MOST HELPFUL IF GOP COULD ACCEPT THIS LATER PROPOSAL, AND YOU MAY SO INDICATE TO GOP.

2. FYI-AS EMBASSY MAY BE AWARE, USG IS TRYING TO MEET APRIL 1 DEADLINE FOR BRINGING EXISTING BILATERALS INTO CONFORMITY WITH MORE LIBERAL MFA TERMS. IN ORDER ACCOMPLISH THIS, WE HAVE HAD TO JUGGLE NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE SEVERAL TIMES TO ARRIVE AT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DATES WITH A NUMBER OF MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES. IF GOP CANNOT

ACCEPT JANUARY 13 DATE, WE WILL OF COURSE UNDERSTAND AND PROPOSE ANOTHER TIME, MOST LIKELY IN MARCH OR EARLY APRIL. IN LATTER EVENT, CURRENT COTTON BILATERAL MIGHT LAPSE BUT THAT WOULD NOT REPRESENT SERIOUS PROBLEM OVER BRIEF PERIOD AS AN AGREEMENT REACHED AFTER APRIL 1 COULD BE MADE RETROACTIVE END FYI. KISSINGER

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